

Community College Initiative (CCI) Program

Scholarship awards for the 2024-2025 Community College Initiative (CCI) Program are contingent on the appropriation of Federal funding by the United States Congress.

Program Overview

The **Community College Initiative (CCI) Program** provides participants from underserved and underrepresented groups with a one-year non-degree academic program at a U.S. community college. Since the program's inception in 2007, more than 3,800 participants from 25 countries have received scholarships for study at community colleges throughout the United States. The CCI Program is a program of the U.S. Department of State.

The CCI Program encourages a holistic learning and exchange experience and focuses on five program pillars: academics, cultural exchange, service learning, internships, and leadership and community impact project. All five pillars of the CCI Program are of equal importance.

The Program provides participants with a non-degree, academic program at a U.S. community college designed to build participants' technical skills in applied fields, enhance their leadership capabilities, and strengthen their English language proficiency. It also provides opportunities for professional internships, service learning, and community engagement. After completing the program, participants return home with enhanced skills to help them contribute to the economic development of their countries.

The CCI Program demonstrates U.S. commitment to increasing access to higher education for international students from underrepresented and underserved communities in selected countries and highlights the learning environment offered at U.S. community colleges. The program also builds U.S. community colleges' efforts to deepen international education partnerships and programming.

Community colleges are predominantly publicly funded, inclusive institutions in local communities that welcome all who desire to learn, regardless of wealth, heritage, or previous academic experience. Community colleges offer individual courses (credit and non-credit), certificate programs, workforce development training, and associate degrees. Associate degree coursework at community colleges is roughly equivalent to that offered in the first two years of a four-year bachelor's degree program. There are more than 1,100 public, independent, and tribal community colleges across the United States. Community colleges focus on teaching rather than research and work closely with the community and local industry to assess need when developing programming.

Fields of Study Summary

The CCI Program offers study in the following fields:

- Agriculture
- Business Management/Admin
- Early Childhood Education
- Engineering

- Information Technology (IT)
- Digital Media, Journalism and Communications
- Social Services, Health, and Public Safety
- Tourism and Hospitality Management

The CCI Program offerings within these fields of study are limited to specific concentration areas listed on the 2024-2025 CCI fields of study summaries and included as part of this application. *Applicants must select and rank their top three subfield choices under one selected field of study and be interested in studying in any subfield.*

Courses and programs of study vary by individual colleges. All colleges offer introductory classes that would be taken during the first two years of a four-year bachelor's degree. The CCI Program does not offer advanced

field-specific courses. Participants will work with their Program Coordinators at each host college to develop an individual program plan within their field of study and concentration area. Participants should develop their goals broadly within these fields of study and concentration areas. In this application, participants should describe their specific areas of interest in their proposed fields of study and available concentration areas, their related experience, and their long-term goals. Participants are applying for the CCI Program and are not applying to a specific academic degree program at a particular institution. Based on their proficiency in English, participants will have access to courses at the CCI community college where they are placed. Participants may earn an academic certificate in their field of study or complete courses that are relevant to their professional goals. Certificate programs are not available for all programs at all campuses and are contingent upon multiple factors, including the participant's level of English. Participants will combine academic or professional coursework with first-hand practical experiences through internships or service learning that will help them build their professional skills and capacities.

The educational system in the United States will be different from the educational systems in the participants' home countries. To be successful in U.S. academic courses, participants will need to attend all classes, participate fully, complete assignments on time, and complete additional coursework (such as readings, essays, individual and group projects) during their own time outside of the classroom. It is common practice to have 6-10 hours of homework each week after each 3-hour class.

CCI Eligibility Requirements

Everyone who meets the CCI eligibility criteria listed below is welcome to apply regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, geographic location, socio-economic status, disability (physical or mental), sexual orientation, or gender identity. Persons with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply. Competition for the CCI Program is merit-based and open to anyone who:

- Is a citizen, national or permanent resident qualified to hold a valid passport issued by a country participating in the CCI Program.
- Is currently residing in the eligible country.
- Is 18 years or older by July 1, 2024.
- Has successfully earned a secondary school diploma.
- Has *not* completed the equivalent of three years toward a U.S. bachelor's degree or higher in the field of study the applicant is nominated to pursue. Nominees without substantive post-secondary education will be given placement priority.
- Has demonstrated commitment to the selected field of study through some academic or professional
 experience. The program aims to identify participants with proven skills or interest and limited
 professional experience in the fields of study offered.
- Has basic working knowledge of English language as demonstrated by a minimum TOEFL score of 420. (Note: To enroll in credit-bearing courses in an academic field of study, the applicant must meet the minimum language requirements of the host college—usually 500 on the TOEFL test or equivalent scores on other standardized tests. English language training will be necessary and is available for those who do not demonstrate this level of proficiency. Participants with a score below 500 must have an interest in taking English language classes as a primary academic focus; they will have very limited access to courses in their field of study. Participant language skills will be evaluated upon arrival at the host institution. A host campus testing result will be the score used to determine course placements.)
- Has limited or no overseas study experience. Nominees with no prior overseas study or travel to the United States will be given placement priority.
- Meets any customized requirements of the home country Embassy/Consulate or Commission.
- Submits a complete original application.
- Is able to receive a U.S. J-1 visa and meet the program conditions to maintain that status.
- Is willing and mentally and physically able (with accommodations as required) to complete the program in its entirety, giving equal importance to all five pillars, including activities or travel that may be programmed on any day of the week, possibly including early morning or evening hours.

- Is committed to returning to their home country after completion of the program and satisfying the J-visa two-year residency requirement.
- Is able to begin the academic exchange program in the United States in July 2024.

Ineligibility

Individuals in the following circumstances are **NOT** eligible for the Community College Initiative Program:

- U.S. citizens.
- Non-U.S. citizens living in the United States.
- Individuals currently participating in academic, training, or research programs in the United States.
- Individuals currently studying, residing, or working outside of the eligible countries.
- Individuals who have participated in an exchange visitor program sponsored or funded by the U.S. government for a period of more than six weeks and who have not fulfilled their two-year home residency requirement by the time of their CCI application.
- Individuals who have applied for U.S. permanent residency.
- Local employees of the U.S. missions abroad who work for the U.S. Department of State and/or the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Employees are also ineligible for one year following the termination of employment.
- Immediate family members (i.e., spouses and children) of U.S. Embassy and Fulbright Commission employees. Family members are also ineligible for one year following the termination of employment.
- Persons arrested for, charged with, or convicted of a crime (excluding minor traffic violations).

Application Review Process and Criteria

The CCI Program is conducted as a merit-based open competition. After the application deadline, all applications will be reviewed in country for eligibility and assessed by a panel of exchange program specialists. Competitive applicants will be interviewed in their home countries by a nomination committee. All applicants will be notified of their nomination and placement statuses on a rolling basis from spring to summer 2023.

The nomination committee will use the following criteria to evaluate applications (not in order of importance):

- Demonstrated interest and professional goals in the field of study applicant wishes to pursue.
- Full commitment and emotional readiness to participate in all components of an intensive program.
- Cross-cultural interest.
- Leadership potential.
- Flexibility and suitability as an exchange student.
- Proficiency in written and spoken English.
- Physical ability and willingness to complete the program in its entirety, including activities or travel that may be programmed on any day of the week and during early morning or evening hours.
- Commitment to returning to home country after the program to fulfill a two-year home residency requirement.
- Preference will be given to applicants who have no prior experience outside their home countries.
- Preference will be given to applicants who represent underserved and underrepresented communities, including women.
- Preference will be given to those applicants who have completed secondary school and have not yet earned a degree equivalent to a U.S. bachelor's degree or higher.
- Preference will be given to those applicants who can express how the CCI Program connects directly to their personal and professional short-term and long-term goals.

General Application Instructions

- Submit a completed original application with signature on the last page.
- Each applicant must complete their own application form. Applicants may consult with others for advice on how to complete the form, but each applicant must write their own responses.
- Please answer ALL questions on the application in English. Do NOT leave a space blank. If a question does not apply to you, enter N/A (not applicable).
- Include your full legal name with family name (surname) in CAPITAL LETTERS first as spelled on your international passport (if available).
- Include complete contact information, including postal codes for addresses and city/country codes for phone numbers.
- Handwritten applications must be neatly printed.
- Submit the application by the deadline established by the U.S. Embassy or Fulbright Commission located in your country.

Financial Provisions of the Grant

- J-1 visa support.
- Round-trip travel from participant's home city to host institution in the United States.
- Tuition and mandatory college fees.
- Housing and meals.
- Small allowance for books, materials, and incidental expenses.
- Limited Accident and Sickness coverage that is J-visa compliant.
- A variety of personal and professional development activities.

Learn More: CCI Program Information and Social Media Sites

CCI Website: www.nvcc.edu/ccip

CCI Blog: https://blogs.nvcc.edu/cci/

You Tube: www.youtube.com/cciprogram

CCI Facebook: www.facebook.com/cciprogram

○CCI Twitter: www.twitter.com/cciprogram

© CCI Instagram: www.instagram.com/cciprogram



COMMUNITY COLLEGE INITIATIVE PROGRAM STUDENT APPLICATION 2024-2025

Personal Information			
Name of applicant as indicated	on passport if pas	sport is already is	ssued. Please type or print.
SURNAME/FAMILY NAME	First/Cir	en Name	Middle Name(s)
(write in all capital letters)	FIISVGN	CH MAIHE	Minute Maine(8)
Home Address:			Home Phone:
Street and number:			Mobile Phone:
City:			E-mail:
State/province:			Location where you currently live:
Postal code:			☐ Federal Capital ☐ Major City
Country:			☐ Other City/Town ☐ Rural Area
Gender:	Marital status:	Do you have a	Date of birth (month/day/year):
☐ Male	\square Single	passport?	Month of birth:
☐ Female	☐ Married	☐ Yes	Day of birth:
☐ Non-binary		□ No	Year of birth:
☐ Intersex			
☐ Gender Non-conforming			
Country/Countries of citizensh	ip:		Place of birth (city or town and country, as listed
			in passport, if available):
			City of birth:
Country/Countries of permanent	residence:		Country:
Are you currently a student?	□ Yes □ No		What is the highest educational degree you have
If yes, I am currently a	10.1.		completed?
☐ Secondary School/High Scho	of Student		☐ Secondary School/High School
☐ Undergraduate Student			Secondary School/Tright School
☐ Other:			☐ Postsecondary Study
Name of a 11 and in the time of the same of	11 - 4.		Number of years of study completed:
Name of college/institution enrolled:			
Lam currently studying Full-	time □ Part-tin	ne	☐ Other:
I am currently studying □ Full-time □ Part-time			Number of years of study completed:
I am enrolled in a degree program. \square Yes \square No			· · · · · ·
Tum emoned in a degree program	п. — 103 — 11	O	
Have you participated in any U	~	xchange progran	m? Yes □ No □
If yes, give name of the program	:		
D 6.1			
Duration of the program:	Yea	ar you participated	1:

Your proposed Field of Study during the Community College Initiative Program:

Applicants <u>must apply in only 1</u> field of study. Select your preferred field of study from the options below. Then, select 3 concentration areas in that same field of study and note the order of your preference. You must select 3 options within the same field of study – subfield concentration areas and academic certificates are not guaranteed and are contingent upon host college availability. Applicants understand and accept that they may be placed in any of the 3 concentration areas selected.

Field of Study (check 1):	Concentration A (check 2 or 3):	rea		ler Preferen	
☐Agriculture	□Agribusiness		1 🗆	2□	3□
C	☐ Agricultural Geospatial Technology			2□	3□
	☐ Agricultural Pro	oduction Management	1 🗆	2□	3□
	☐ Animal Science	2	1 🗆	2□	3□
	□Environmental	Horticulture and Conservation	1 🗆	2□	3□
	☐Sustainable Ag	riculture	1 🗆	2 🗆	3□
□Engineering	□Architecture		1 🗆	2 🗆	3□
	☐ Automotive Te	chnology or Service Management	1 🗆	2□	3□
Applicants to	☐Computer Aide		1 🗆	2□	3□
engineering will	□Construction M	Ianagement	1 🗆	2□	3□
need to have a solid foundation	☐ Electricity, Ele	ectromechanical and Electronics Technology	1 🗆	2□	3□
in math and will	☐ Heating Ventila	ation and Air Conditioning	1 🗆	2 🗆	3□
need to take a	☐ Machine Repair	r: Automated Systems	1 🗆	2□	3□
math placement	□Manufacturing	Technology	1 🗆	2□	3□
exam at their host campuses	□Mechatronics		1 🗆	2□	3□
to be eligible for	☐Renewable Ene	ergy Technology	1 🗆	2□	3□
credit-bearing	□Robotics		1 🗆	2 🗆	3□
courses.	□Welding		1□	2□	3□
□Business	Banking and	□Accounting	1 🗆	2□	3□
Management and	Finance	□Bookkeeping	1 🗆	2□	3□
Administration	Entrepreneurship	☐Business Planning	1 🗆	2□	3□
		□Entrepreneurship	1 🗆	2□	3□
		☐Small Business Management	1 🗆	2□	3□
	Marketing and	☐Customer Service	1 🗆	2□	3□
	Public Relations	☐Marketing	1 🗆	2□	3□
		☐Promotions and Public Relations	1 🗆	2□	3□
		☐Social Media Marketing	1 🗆	2□	3□
	Management and	☐ Administrative Professional	1 🗆	2□	3□
	Administration	☐Business Management	1 🗆	2□	3□
		☐Business Operations Support Services	1 🗆	2□	3□
		☐Human Resources	1 🗆	2□	3□
		☐International/Global Business	1 🗆	2□	3□
		☐Leadership Development	1 🗆	2□	3□
		☐Organizational Leadership	1 🗆	2□	3□
		☐Project Management	1 🗆	2□	3□
\Box Early		n of an ECE Center	1 🗆	2□	3□
Childhood	•	pol-Age Care Specialist	1 🗆	2□	3□
Education		d Education and Development	1 🗆	2□	3□
(ECE)	☐Special Educati		1 🗆	2□	3□
	☐Computer Info	rmation Systems (CIS)/Computer Science (CS)	1 🗆	2□	3□

□Information	☐Computer Internetworking Technologies (CIT)	1 🗆	2□	3□
Technology	□Cybersecurity	1 🗆	2□	3□
	☐ Geographic Information Systems (GIS)	1 🗆	2 🗆	3□
	☐ IT Technician: Desktop Support, Computer Support, Network Technician	1 🗆	2□	3□
□Media	☐ Digital Media, Journalism, and Communications	1 🗆	2 🗆	3□
	☐ Graphic Design	1 🗆	2□	3□
	☐ Public & Media Relations	1 🗆	2 🗆	3□
	☐Social Media Marketing	1 🗆	2□	3□
	□Web Design	1 🗆	2 🗆	3□
	☐Web Development	1 🗆	2 🗆	3□
□Social	□Community Health Worker	1 🗆	2□	3□
Services,	☐Emergency Services/Emergency Medical Services	1 🗆	2□	3□
Health, and	☐Fire Sciences, Protection and Safety	1 🗆	2□	3□
Public Safety	□Phlebotomy	1 🗆	2 🗆	3□
☐Tourism and	☐ Hospitality and Hotel Management	1 🗆	2 🗆	3□
Hospitality	☐Culinary Arts and Restaurant Management	1 🗆	2□	3□
Management	☐ Meeting, Event, and Exhibition Planning	1 🗆	2□	3□
	□Tourism	1 🗆	2□	3□

To pursue certificates in a field of study, you will likely be required to repeat entry-level courses you have taken in your home country to meet prerequisite requirements for the certificate. A certificate in the selected subfield is not guaranteed. Official copies of any post-secondary transcripts and course syllabi or other documentation of course content and your performance from your home institution may be considered for evaluating if you have already satisfied the prerequisite requirements, but this process requires precise documentation and is not guaranteed. You will need to bring official copies of your education records with you to the United States for host campus evaluation.

studied, including Engli	sh. List y			age 1	first.						
Language		R	eading			Wr	iting	3	Speaking		Listening
English Language Prof TOEFL, TOEIC, IELTS	•	•		•	-			_	0 0 1	•	` *
Test Taken:	Date 7	Taken:		Res	sults (a	ilso c	attach copy):			
Background Inforn	nation										
Educational History: F most recent listed first. you received a certificat	. Please at	ttach a	translated								
Name of Institution/Location	Major 1		Dates A (Month	n, Ye	ar)	De	actual Nan gree or Di Do not trans	ploma	Type of Education (Select one)		Date Degree Received / Anticipated Completion Date
Current or Most Recent Education:									☐ High School ☐ Postsecondary ☐ Other:	7	
Previous Education:									☐ High School ☐ Postsecondary ☐ Other:	y	
Work Experience: Are you currently employed? ☐ Yes, full-time ☐ Yes, part-time ☐ No List jobs held, begin with current or most recent employment. (Continue on additional sheets of paper, if necessary)											
Name and addre	ss of	Po	osition hel	id	Da From (Mor	m: nth/	Date To: (Month/ Year)	Responsibilities			
Current Position:											
						_					

Knowledge of Languages: Rate yourself Excellent, Good, Fair, or Poor. Include all languages that you speak or have

Professional and Volunteer Experience: In addition to jobs held, please list relevant professional non-paid,

volunteer and/or leadership positions or experiences.	volu	ınteer	and/or	leadership	positions or	experiences.
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ofulficer and/of featiers	np positions of expe	ritences.			
Positio	on	Date From: (Month/ Year)	Date To: (Month/ Year)	Responsibilities	
are you currently employed or have you been employed in the previous 12 months for the U.S. Department of tate and/or the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)? Yes No					
· ·	ved in any country o	other than	your own,	SAID?	
Country	Dates of Travel	Purpose of Travel			
,				•	

Emergency Contact Information: Below, provide the names, addresses and telephone numbers of individuals to be notified in case of an emergency

notified in case of an emo	ergency.				
Name of individual	Location & address of individual	Indicate relationship to you (father, mother, friend, etc.)	Languages this person speaks		
	List contacts in your home con	untry			
	Address:				
	Telephone:				
	Email:				
	Address:				
	Telephone:				
	Email:				
List contacts in the United States, if any					
	Address:				
	Telephone:				
	Email:				

Please list family members who have participated in a U.S. government-sponsored exchange program in the

United States. (Continue on additional sheets of paper, if necessary)

Name of individual	Relationship	Name of program	Program dates

Please list any family members who are currently applying to participate in a 2023 or 2024 U.S. government-

sponsored exchange program in the United States. (Continue on additional sheets of paper, if necessary)

Name of individual	Relationship	Name of program	Program dates

Free Response. Please type or write neatly on separate sheets of paper.

Please be open and candid in your responses. These essays will help us understand a little more about who you are as a unique individual.

Response #1: Describe your related experience within your proposed field of study. How would this program of study build on your past education, training, and/or experience? If you are new to this field, why did you choose this field? Your response helps us to match your interests with college programs.

(Your response should be a minimum of 250 words and a maximum of 750 words.)

Response #2: Why are you applying for the CCI Program? Describe the goals that you intend to accomplish during the CCI Program. Consider the five pillars of the CCI Program (academics, cultural exchange, service learning, internships, and leadership and community impact), and how they will integrate together to help you reach your goals in the short- and long-term. (Your response should be a minimum of 200 words and a maximum of 700 words.)

Response #3: If you could make one change in your community, what would it be? What activities would you complete 6-12 months *after returning home* from the CCI Program to improve this community issue? Please be specific. (**Your response should be a minimum of 200 words and a maximum of 700 words.)**

Response #4: The CCI Program is an intensive program with high expectations. Describe a challenging situation or a disappointment in your educational, professional, or personal life where you demonstrated resilience and perseverance. Describe how you approached the situation or disappointment and what you learned from it. Please be specific. (**Your response should be a minimum of 200 words and a maximum of 700 words.**)

Response #5: Describe a time when you had to work with someone whose opinions/beliefs/views were different from your own. How did you demonstrate leadership and openness to manage the situation and overcome the conflict? (**Your response should be a minimum of 200 words and a maximum of 700 words.)**

Iow did you learn about the CCI Program?	
U.S. Embassy or Fulbright Commission	
College/University	
Non-Government Organization (NGO)	
CCI alumni	
Family or friend	
Social media post	
Other	

CCI Program Timeline

Oct 2023 2024-2025 CCI Program application launched in participating countries. Oct 2023 - Feb 2024 Applications accepted and reviewed in each county. Interview committees invite semifinalist candidates for interviews. Embassies and Fulbright Commissions nominate slate of candidates to ECA for Feb 23, 2024 final selection and placement. Mar 15, 2024 Medical Forms due. ECA selects and places candidates. Only candidates with complete application Apr 2024 files will be considered for placement. Placed and alternate candidates are announced and invited to pre-departure Late Apr 2024 orientations. Apr – Jul 2024 Additional candidates are placed as openings become available. May - Jun 2024 Candidates participate in pre-departure orientations, review Terms and Conditions of the CCI Program and other program materials, and submit signed Terms and Conditions document. Candidates apply for visas and submit proof of visas to Embassy or Commission. May – Jun 2024 Candidates engage with host campus Program Coordinators and submit additional required documents for each host campus. Late Jun – early Jul 2024 Candidates receive travel itinerary and travel information. Mid-Jul 2024 Candidates fly to their host campuses and begin their CCI Programs!

COMMUNITY COLLEGE INITIATIVE PROGRAM APPLICATION CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

CERTIFICATION: I certify that I completed this application myself, that the information given in this application is complete and accurate, and that I have carefully read and understand it. I also certify that I meet eligibility requirements.

I understand that program administrators reserve the right to verify all the information listed in the application. I understand that giving false or misleading information in the application will eliminate me from the competition or cause my dismissal from the Community College Initiative Program.

Also, I acknowledge that I am aware of the following program requirements:

- I must follow all program rules and regulations and observe all the laws of the United States during my stay there.
- At the end of the academic year program, I will return to my home country and fulfill a two-year, home country residency requirement in compliance with the terms of my J-visa. I understand that I may not extend my program dates.
- My spouse, children, other relatives or individuals are not permitted to accompany me to the United States
 on the program.

All applicants must submit the following documents for an application to be considered complete:

11	orm: Applicants must provide complete information for all questions. Do not leave a . If it does not apply to you, write "NA" for Not Applicable. Sign and date the m
* *	ns: Applicants must answer each question. Answers must be the applicant's own work
☐ Secondary Sch translation.	ool Diploma: A copy of the applicant's secondary school diploma, with an English
-	copy of applicant's transcript for most recent year of study completed (high school or). The transcript may be in the language of instruction, with an English translation.
☐ English Test R	esults, if available: Provide official English test score report.
international passport (inclu	assport, <i>if available</i> : Provide a copy of your passport data page. If you do not have an assport yet, it is highly recommended that you begin the process of applying for a ding obtaining any required local documents) as it may take a significant amount of this document.
☐ Any country-s	pecific requirements
☐ Medical Histor	y and Examination form
Only candidate	es with complete applications will considered for selection and placement.
Signature of applicant	Date (month/day/year)